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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08020.0012

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Hilmar WECHSEL	)	Group Art Unit: 3627
	)	
Application No.: 10/787,206	)	Examiner: Unknown
	)	
Filed: February 27, 2004	)	
	)	
For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR	)	Confirmation No.: 4681
MANAGING PRODUCT RETURNS	)	
USING DECISION CODES	)	
Commissioner for Patents		
P.O. Box 1450		
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450		

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

In light of the waiver of 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(2)(i) provided in 1273 OG 55 for patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patent documents listed on the 1449 form are not required and therefore are not enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Form PTO-1449.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed

documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 22, 2004

By: 

C. Gregory Gramenopoulos  
Reg. No. 36,532



OMB No. 0651-0011

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	08020.0012	Appln. No.	10/787,206
Applicant	Hilmar WECHSEL		
Filing Date	February 27, 2004	Group:	3627

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,984,508	Nov. 1999	HURLEY			
	6,085,172	July 2000	JUNGER			
	6,269,344	July 2001	JUNGER			
	6,463,421	Oct. 2002	JUNGER			
	6,473,893	Oct. 2002	KAY et al.			
	6,536,659	Mar. 2003	HAUSER et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	U.S. Application No. 10/787,205, entitled: "Systems and Methods for Managing Product Returns Using Return Authorization Numbers", filed February 27, 2004.

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce